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Three DI teams advance

Jeffrey Bies
Staff Writer

Two out of five Open School Destination Imagination teams placed high enough at the regional tournament to advance to the state competition. The state competition will be held at Maple Grove High School on Saturday, April 22. Three regional competitions took place last Saturday at Harding High School.

The teams that advanced were the Inside Dimension and Kidz Rulz teams, both placed first. The other three teams placed third.

This year's problems are called Back At You, Kidz Rulz, Inside Dimension and On Safari. The coaches for Right Back at You, Kidz Rulz, Inside Dimension Junior High, and Inside Dimension Senior High are

James, Susanne, and Tom. The coach for On Safari is Bridget.

The Back At You team had to build a delivery device that is elevated four feet above the ground, and has the ability to launch a tennis ball or ping pong ball into the receiving zone, which is also elevated four feet from the ground.



Busy getting ready
for regionals

The Kidz Rulz team had to make a play where a rule of physics is broken. In this case, it was about cell phones. The Inside Dimension junior high team had to research an architect of their choosing and make a play about that person and a building they designed. Inside Dimension
DI Continued on 7

Vending machine blues

Liam Shramko
Staff Writer

As far as I'm concerned, the Snickers Bar is man's greatest invention. But that's just me. Other people prefer Twix, and some others even argue for Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. It doesn't end there. There's a wide variety of snacks you could eat. Everything from Skittles to Gardettos. But that may change all too soon. According to sources close to the top, the district plans on enforcing a new policy that will wipe all these delicious snacks from our school's vending machine, basically forcing us to eat healthy. "This is Communism," said Communist Andrew Hoaglund.

Apparently the candy and soda machines will be filled with "healthy" and "nutritious" options for students and faculty to consume. The fat cats up in the district offices think we need healthier food. Ha! The vending machine already offers one whole row of nutritious snacks for us to buy; it is appropriately placed near the bottom where no one can see it. To my knowledge, Leo is the only person who purchases snacks from "death row."



The fatty and delicious
vending machine

"It makes you wonder what they're eating up in the district offices. I'll tell you one thing, it sure as heck

WATERGATE Continued on 5

An in depth chat with Open's favorite rapper

Devlin Byrne
Staff Writer

When I arrived for the interview at Orikal's house, I was slightly winded because I biked there. Orikal lives fairly close to school, just on the other side of the high bridge. Orikal answered the door and invited me in. I followed him to his room where Fanta was tweaking keys on Reason, using Orikal's Sony Vaio. Fanta and I exchanged pleasantries while Orikal sat down on his bed and resumed playing Super Punch Out on his SNES.

We ate vegetables and dip while shooting the shnykes. The topics were usual, school sucks, parents are wack, etc. Fanta seemed removed from the situation, absorbed in his work. I decided it was time to start the interview.

Me: When did you first get really serious about music and decide that's what you wanted to do?

Orikal: When I was about 12 or 13 maybe? I put out my first CD when I was 14, put my second one out when I was 15. I'm putting this one out, I'm 16 now.

Me: That's one a year, that's pretty good.

Orikal: Yeah, that's what I've been doing. Probably when I first did the talent show at Open School, is when I knew that rapping was my thing. Because I was like eight or nine, or ten, and I was on stage, rapping, and everyone loved it. It felt really good. It's better than sex, the feeling of being on stage. (Laughs)

Me: Looking back now, what do you think of your first two albums?

Orikal: In my opinion the rapping on them is wack, I'm not gonna say the production is wack. But, my lyrics grow, and my skills as a lyricist grow, like each and every song that I write, and so, I'll think it's tight when I put it out, but like, a couple months later, I'll think it's the wackest ***%# I've ever done.

ORIKAL Continued on 6

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Adult to Blame

Leo Bickelhaupt

Open readies to cross the Atlantic

Norma Romero

Staff Writer

Next fall a group of students might be eating Schnitzel and visiting some concentration camps. They might even come back wearing lederhosen. That's because they will be taking a trip to Germany.

The 10 to 12 day trip will take place in October. The chaperones will be Tom Totushek, math teacher, and Bridget Martin, drama teacher. Bridget will be the chaperone, even though she will be retiring. Luke Leba might be coming as a chaperone, depending on the number of kids that will be going.

The students voted on going to Germany as a destination. They will also go to Austria. They will be traveling to Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, Neuschwanstein, Tyrol, Lucerne, Heidelberg, and Rhine extension.

The trip that they chose was the longest and cheapest. There was a very good combination of destinations and activities, according to Tom. They will also be seeing the Cologne Cathedral, The Beethoven House, and The Haus der Geschichte.

The cost is around \$1,095. The trip includes round-trip airfare and 10 overnight stays in hotels. They will also be eating complete European breakfast and dinner daily. A full time bilingual tour guide will be with them the whole trip.

The students are planning some fundraising projects to raise money. They will be selling pies, and two events are planned for this spring. There will be a British-style high tea, and a 35th anniversary celebration dinner at Mancinis.◊

Snow Daze at Open

Sno Daze took place February 13th through February 18th. It started out with multicultural dress up day and a multicultural celebration was held after school on Monday. Tuesday was a nice clothes dress up day. There was a Valentines Day dance, and flowers and treats were delivered. Wednesday was pajama day. Thursday was opposite day. Friday was twins and triplets day.

On Monday students and staff were crowned. Milles Alteri was crowned Sno Daze King. Kameika Livingston was crowned Sno Daze Queen. Erik Peterson-Nafziger was crowned Duke Wind Chill. Jane Kahan was crowned Duchess Drizzle.

Snow Days 06' Pics



Julie and Bridget as teachers in retirement

Bridget goes cuckoo for her finale

Sonia Romero

Staff Writer

The final play of Bridget's career will be *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Cuckoo's Nest was originally a book in 1962 by Ken Kesey and later made in to a movie in 1975 starring Jack Nicholson.

The story is about Randel P. Mc Murphy, who gets sent to a mental asylum after being convicted of statutory rape. He says his girl friend lied to him, saying that she was 18 when she was actually 15. During his time in jail, he convinces the guards that he suffers from mental problems, and is sent to a mental hospital. At the hospital, he becomes a popular figure among the patients, and an enemy to nurse Ratched, who is in

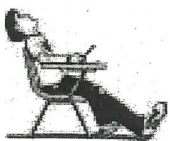
charge of the unit. During his time there, he has an important influence on everybody.

Bridget said she chose that play because the theater boys kept bugging her about it. She said that when she read it, she realized it would work well for Open School, and it wouldn't be any different from what she has been doing. Senior Devlin Byrne wants to be in the play. "It's more along the lines of a play I would like to do," he said. "It gives me something I can chew on."

The play will open this spring.



Kamieka, Veronica and Chole on triplets day



Senior Profile: Nathan Jesson

How long have you been at Open School? Six years

Extra Curricular Activities: DI, theater, history day newspaper, mock trial, fraquetball, sky diving (co captain)



What are your plans for next year?

I will be attending college in the United States.

What are you going to miss most about Open?

The irreverent chatting.

What is your favorite book, movie, or TV show?

My favorite TV show is *The West Wing*.

What was your favorite class at Open?

Mad Men in Literature and Film.

What is one super power you wish you had?

Time travel.

What is one job you would like to have as an adult?

President of the United States.

Who is one person you would like to meet?

Eugene McCarthy.

That's just Ruff: an in depth look at Steroids

Nathan Jesson

Staff Editor

The date was February 20th, a slow day for Fraquetball. Only one game was scheduled, Steroids (Emmett Ruff and Vicente Zavala) vs. Alpha Numericals Revisited (Tom Totushek and Carl Olson.) The outcome was a forgone conclusion. Steroids entered the game 0-12, Alpha Numericals Revisited were 6-6. The game wasn't close, Tom and Carl won easily. But after yet another blowout defeat, Emmett and Vicente didn't hang their heads. Tom stood silently as they happily pranced away, amazed at how they could be so happy, after losing so badly.

"I think Fraquetball is an important part of the Open School experience," Emmett said in a recent interview. There is only one word for a kid like that: trooper. Sure there have been winless teams before, but none take such sheer joy in the game as Steroids. Other winless teams have quit the season early, made excuses, or just plain haven't enjoyed themselves. But not Steroids. They know that they're the worst team

in the league, and even they themselves partake in some of the harmless heckling.

Their name makes fun of their smaller physique. But what is it that makes them want to play Fraquetball after losing so much? "The thought of maybe winning a game keeps me going," Emmett said. And it's not as if they haven't been close. Earlier this year, they played D-Unit, (Damien Bullis and Danny Mauleon.) Luckily for Emmett and Vicente, Damien couldn't be found, and D-Unit had a sub play for him. Steroids jumped out to a 6-1 lead, needing only one more goal to seal the deal. Every thing was going their way. But then Damien showed up, and it all came tumbling down like Howard Dean's presidential aspirations.

D-Unit won the game, 8-6. Looking back on his crushing defeat, Emmett had this to say, "Yes I was disappointed, but I knew that eventually we would win a game. Maybe not this year, but next year." Emmett says he plans to play next year with Vicente, which would make them the first Fraquetball

players to play after a winless season.

In spite of, or probably because of their constant losing, Steroids have become fan favorites. The crowd roars whenever the rare goal is scored. "I always cheer for Steroids. I know what it's like to be on the team that gets booed, and it doesn't help at all," said Danny Mauleon, part time Steroids opponent, full time Steroids fan. The Commissioner had this to say about Steroids, "Fraquetball needs teams like them. Dedicated teams, that aren't afraid to lose." Well put Commish.

But what does the future bode for Steroids? If indeed they do play next year, will they be any better? History doesn't suggest anything one way or the other. Really though, as Steroids have taught us, it doesn't matter whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game. What a long strange trip it's been.

Reviews 'n' Stuff

Good, but not very original Stranger

Emmett Ruff
Staff Writer

Jack Stanfield is spying on the abandoned house where his family is being held captive. He's on top of a wooded hill. Suddenly, he shifts his weight and rolls backward down the hill. This is an example of how Harrison Ford's character is a little less suave and action packed than the Han Solos or Indiana Jones that he's played in the past.

Ford's latest film, *Firewall*, stars Paul Bettany (*A Beautiful Mind*) and Virginia Madsen (*Sideways*). It's directed by Richard Loncraine and opened February 10th. The movie was filmed in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. It was originally called "The Wrong Element."

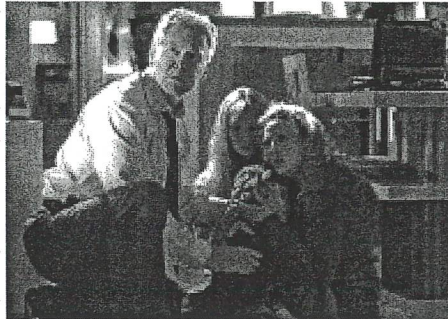
Stanfield (Ford) has a comfortable life. He's a bank security expert who specializes in theft-proof financial systems for Landrock Pacific Bank. He has a wife (Virginia

Madsen), two kids, and a dog. He lives in a beautiful Seattle home.

Bill Cox (Bettany) has been studying Jack's family. He knows their daily schedules and routines. Jack's life is turned upside down when Cox kidnaps Jack's family and holds them hostage in their own home. Jack is now forced to hack his own system and steal 100 million dollars.

While Jack and his family are under constant surveillance, Jack has little time to steal the money from Landrock Pacific Bank and find a flaw in Cox's plan.

The only real problem with this movie is the plot. We've all seen it before: guy's family gets kidnapped, guy gets blackmailed, guy tries to save family. It's been done. This *FIREWALL* Continued on 7



Harrison Ford as Jack Stanfield in the suspense thriller *Firewall*

Kamieka Livingston
Staff Writer

Dear audience, I cannot lie to you. When I went to go see *When a Stranger Calls* I wasn't expecting it to be a good movie at all. Boy was I right. Unlike its parent, the 1971 *When a Stranger Calls*, our new, and certainly not improved version, fails to deliver the suspense. Much like the scene in which Jill Johnson, our heroine, runs from house to the guest house. She runs, she falls, she makes it.....Yawn.

The whole premise of this movie is a girl trapped in a house while baby-sitting. Pretty good premise, right? Well these jerks can't seem to get it quite right. From the beginning we already know what is going to hap-



Camilla Belle stars in *When a Stranger Calls*

pen. The opening scene shows the whole plot of the movie. Girl baby-sit-

ting gets creepy calls, gets attacked. Feel free to leave now. And the suspense leaves much to be desired. Sure there are a few jumpy moments, but nothing to base a movie on.

Our new *When a Stranger Calls* has something new, caller ID and cell phones, thus rendering the movie fundamentally flawed. How can someone possibly be so stupid after say the first 3 calls, as to not jot down the number and give it to the police? Well, Jill Johnson, played by the ever lovely Camilla Belle, is.

Let me, for a moment, tell you of something else that makes this movie undeniably irritating. When hiring a baby-sitter, you are trusting the welfare of your children to an elder for the night. You assume that the person you hired is responsible and can handle most serious situations. Therefore, as a baby-sitter you do all that is in your power to live up to the expectations. You do not invite your friends over to hang out. That is just irresponsible and inappropriate. Shame on you, *STRANGER* Continued on 7

PS3 costs more, but worth it

Chang Vang and Tong Lor
Staff Writers

For the fans of video games out there, there is a new game system coming out. The Play Station 3 is due this spring, and is way cooler than the PS2. It was created by Ken Kutaragi and will sell for approximately \$300, about twice as much as the PS2.

The graphics for the PS3 are way more realistic than the old Playstation systems, and also they will have some cool video games. There are also two new features. The first one is the Digital Video Recorder. The DVR can record high definition movies and TV episodes. You don't need a memory card to store the games that you save; it will save automatically. The second is iTunes. You can go online to get music for the PS3.



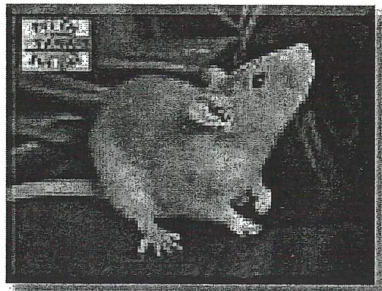
There are lots of games out for PS3, so many we can't even name them all. Some of the new games are Tekken 6, Mortal Combat 7, and Gran Turismo 5. Each game will cost \$54.99. The PS3 can be connected to PSP, just like Game Cube connects to the Game Boy for the big screen. Plus, the PS3 controller is now wireless. That is awesome.

We think that the PS3 is worth buying. Since they upgraded the hard drive, it is definitely worth it. We think that the PS3 will be sold out within two months. The same as last year, when the PS2 came out it was sold out in two to three months. It is coming in stores everywhere. Get your PS3 before it is gone.◊

Rats are good for more than just diseases

Sarah Plonski
Staff Writer

It's likely that everyone knows about rats as disease carriers, but not a lot of people know that many people keep them as pets, too. In the middle ages, people all were getting diseases from rats, until they got a little bit smarter and started washing their hands and stuff like that. They still had rats everywhere, but they weren't getting any diseases from them. So what did they decide to do? They started breeding them to make them pets! Crazy, huh? Now rats have been bred for hundreds of



teacher Julie Doble said, "Rats are smart and fun pets. The only problem is that when you let them out to run around, which is fun, they poop." Of course, this can be prevented by litter box training.

Now, before running to the nearest pet

store and buying the first feeder (snake food) rat you see, you have to think a few things over. First, the question is, boy or girl? Male and female rats each have general characteristics, although all rats are a little bit different.

Males tend to be larger than females, and tend to have a stronger smell. There are also those male parts, which some people tend to find gross looking. Female rats are smaller and more active than males, and enjoy exploring and playing games. Female rats are also more likely to get tumors. Keep in mind that this is just generally speaking, and doesn't mean that all females are active and all males are lazy. Anyway, they both make

good pets.

Also, it's a good idea get a cage and toys before getting a rat, so that it's all ready when it's time to take the rat home. There are a lot of cages available on the market for reasonable prices, but it's even less expensive to make a cage in the wood shop room with James. Or you could start with an old cupboard and turn it into a rat cage with many levels. You just have to take off the original solid door and add wire doors to the front so they can see out and get fresh air.

You also need to figure out where to get a rat in order for it to be healthy and friendly. Rat maniacs tend to get them from a responsible breeder to be sure they have good parents and stuff, plus breeders are more likely to have different colors and kinds to choose from. You could also get them from a rat rescue place, where they have lots of rats that have been abandoned and need good homes. The problem with this is you don't know what its health and personality will be. It's good to get a rescue rat after having
RATS Continued on 7

WATERGATE From 1

is past the expiration date. I made sure of that. He he he he," said 9th grader Miles Alteri. But I'm not exactly sure if those were the words he chose because he had a cold that day.

Teenagers are fully capable of making their own decisions, in most aspects of life and this is one of those aspects. 10th grader Rhys Hunding was outraged. "If I want healthy food, I'll eat some carrots or something. If I want to eat something that has some flavor, I'll crack open a Snickers bar." I feel your pain Rhys, oh yes I do.

"I haven't been this outraged since they raised the price of soda from 50 cents for can to 60 cents for a can. That's dang near highway robbery," said an enraged Tony Cavanuagh, an enraged Open School senior who has seen his fair share of tragedy. "I'm completely and utterly speechless. I think I might cry." I haven't seen Tony since.

This all comes back to President George W. Bush and his No Child Left Behind program. N.C.L.B. says (among other things) that every District has to create its own Local Wellness Policy. There is a group of about 18 people who are in the process of making this District's Local Wellness Policy.

The group includes principles, assistant principles, students, parents, physical educators, nutritionists and a chef. When they complete a draft of the document they submit it to the School Board and wait for an answer. It goes through as many drafts as necessary.

The Local Wellness Policy document has not been made public, but I was able to obtain some information using my slickness. In the first draft it said only food that contains 7 grams of fat or less would be sold in school. There will be NO soda, NO sports drinks and NO Snickers, among others. They'll sell water, but they aren't sure about milk or juice.

This all brings up an interesting question: What are they going to allow? So far water is a go, but I'm pretty sure you can get water for free... In the drinking fountains. Last time we had a milk machine it didn't sell very much and it was promptly shut down, so that doesn't seem like a good idea either. As far as food goes, you'll see unsalted peanuts, water crackers, and raisins. If we're lucky.

This means the students will stop spending money on the vending machines, money that could help our schools. Students will

start making trips (more frequently) to Mobil which is conveniently located just .51 miles away from Open School on Grand and Smith.

I recently had a small talk with Chad Burlington who was visibly upset and kinda smelled bad. "They're making a huge mistake. The backlash will be huge, there will be widespread panic. I personally guarantee that. They can't honestly think that this is positive. But the funny thing is this isn't even the tip of the iceberg. No Child Left Behind is the single most ridiculous document I have ever seen. The Bush Administration is destroying our country. You can quote me on that." I'll quote you all day Chad, you lucky bastard.

11th grader Kaylee Hansen had this to say about the vending machine situation, "One day we aren't allowed to eat junk food, the next day we can't wear hats, after that we have to get numbers printed on the back of our necks. This is ludicrous." Well maybe she didn't say that, but she was certainly thinking about saying it.

I'm not sure what I will do without some of my favorite snacks readily available. For
WATERGATE Continued on 8

ORIKAL *From 1*

And that's basically how I feel about the past two albums.

Me: Is there anything from the past two albums that you can point at and say, "That was really good," or "I like that line?" I mean, can you see how you've progressed?

ORIKAL: Pretty much. I mean, there are songs that I love from my first and my second album, it's just I know that I can do better. And I feel that it's wack that there's a false representation of me out there, you know? Like if someone five years from now heard that album and thought that was me now, they would be like, "Oh, I'm not gonna check him out."

Me: Do you have a process for writing songs?

Orikal: Most of the time I have to have the beat first. Sometimes I'll just have a bad day and I'll just write something in my notebook, and that will end up being the song. I'll put that to a beat. Basically, I'll hear a beat, and I'll hear the mood of it, then I'll right a song that fits the mood of the beat, and that's how it usually happens.

Me: Do you have a process for making beats?

Orikal: Making beats? I just have fun with it. I'll just be like, well what do I want to do today? I'll start with drums first one day, or like the melody one day, but there's really no process. I always make sure to have a good bass line and good drum patterns. I have to have solid drums.

Me: How do you know when you're done with a song? How do you know it's finished?

Orikal: With lyrics, I just write the song the length of the beat, the verses and the chorus, and once it fits in there it's done. I mean, it's like, well you know that's it. I wrote to the whole beat. With beats, I really never know when they're done because I can always improve them, no matter what. The thing that I have, like my pet peeve, is recording in general and how the recording sounds, and like the mix job and engineering on the song. That's what I always work on and bicker about. Like, "Well I could have made this sound better."

Me: What artists influenced you the most?

Orikal: Growing up I really liked 2Pac. I listen to a lot of 2Pac. I listened to a lot of Twista growing up, Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre, Bone Thugs and Harmony, I used to listen to a lot, I don't anymore. Not as much. Then, as I got into my teenage years, Eyedea, At-

mosphere, Brother Ali, and all the local celebrities.

Me: Are there any artists that you try and model your style after?

Orikal: Sometimes I'll just write a line that's mimicking somebody's style, but, the way that I see my style is that it's a bit of everything. It's a bit of 2Pac, It's a bit of Naz, It's a bit of everything I've heard. It's a bit of the Doors, It's a bit of Nirvana, It's a bit of Stone Temple Pilots, It's a bit of Pearl Jam, It's a bit of Led Zeppelin. Ya know? It's every thing. Just music in general, It's not just Hip-Hop, I get the most influence from rock music, pretty much.

Me: All right, so this is a question I just came up with on the fly, so bear with me. On the Playground Crew mix CD, how serious is that? I mean, a lot of the songs are joking in nature.

I mean, they're good, but as far as what they're about, being drug dealers and stuff, how serious is that?

Orikal: It's not really serious, It's just me just joking and having a fun time, because that's what I feel Hip-Hop is, in general. It should be just good times, ya now? Just have a good time... and all the songs on that CD are just clowning', and that's how we wanted it to be. It's good time music.

Me: Are you in anyway worried that you might influence someone with your music?

Orikal: Yeah. Just because a lot of the kids at my school look up to me and that's kind of a scary thing. I am really a good person, in general, but I am still kinda crazy. I don't want, like a million Antonio's running around.

At this point Fanta stopped working on the beat and played it for us.

Fanta: I'm going crazy with the orchestration.

Orikal: You got a question for Fanta?

Me: Yeah, Fanta, do you have a process for making beats?

Fanta: Just start with, like, do I want it to be happy? or kinda intense, or sad? And there's different chords, and after that? Kinda of developing a melody, developing the chorus. Putting in the drums, I always

put in the drums last.

Me: So you have a drum rule? Do you ever break that rule?

Fanta: Well, I mean, yeah, but I generally change them after the songs done. Because then the song fits.

Orikal: And the crazy thing about that is me and Fanta are part of the same production team, and I usually start my beats with drums. That's the first thing I put in is drums.

Me: That's interesting.

Orikal: Yeah, yeah it is.

The interview continued on from there, but it kinda fell apart. It lost direction and focus. After the interview Orikal and Fanta freestyled. Then Fanta had to leave. Me and Orikal had nothing to do for the rest of the day, so we called Liam. Liam came and picked us up and we sold CD's at Cheapo. We used the money to buy more vegetables

and dip. We went back to Orikal's house and ate the veggies and dip while watching Tommy Boy. Liam gave me a ride home when the movie was over.

The Violence of Truth by The The played as we crossed the high bridge. I let my mind wander as I looked out over the

river, the lights of down town Saint Paul reflecting off the water. I couldn't help but think what would happen if all our dreams came true. If Orikal made it as a famous rapper, if Nathan became president, if I became a film maker. And Fanta, Fanta could do anything he wants. He could become a famous artist. If all our dreams came true we would all be in the public eye, and we would all know each other from high school.

I must have fallen asleep because Liam woke me up and we were in front of my house. I thanked Liam for the ride and said I'd see him tomorrow. Maybe one day we'll be famous, but right now I have to write a story for newspaper or, I'll fail the class.◊



Orikal performing at one of his many local shows

FIREWALL From 4

time It was a little overdone and lacked depth. It's easy to see where the writers tried to fix the plotoles.

Besides the plot and writing, this is a well done movie. Ford does a good job playing a character who's different than his other roles. Jack Stanfield doesn't knock the bad guy out in one swift blow. He doesn't scale buildings in a breeze. He doesn't have the reflexes of a cat. He's simply an average guy who works at a bank. Bettany plays an interesting bad guy despite the cliché of the smart thief with an ingenious plan. Overall, this movie is worth watching...once or twice.◊

DI From 1

senior high team had the same challenge.

"At this point no teams are ready, but the teams always seem to pull it together in the end," said coach Tom Totushek, prior to the regional tournament. "My expectation is for them to have fun, do their best, and compete well," he added.

Seventh Grader Norah Harper-Godderz seemed cautiously optimistic about the Back at You team's chances, "It depends on what we get done today."

The team that faced the stiffest competition was the On Safari team. This category had 11 teams, and the Open School team just missed the cut, placing third. The top two teams in each division advance.◊

Jill, shame on you. I'm sure that the guys who wrote this script have just never baby-sat before.

So our young leading lady, Jill, is forced to baby-sit in order to pay back all the money she racked up by going over her minutes. Instead of going out and getting a job like any independence-driven 16-year old would, she decides it would be better of she just baby-sat a few nights. Tonight she must baby-sit for a young Republican couple. The Mandrakes family has a beautiful home in the middle of nowhere. If there is anything pop culture has taught me, it is never to be left alone in a pretty house in the middle of nowhere!! Jesus Christ, this chick has it coming. Sometime into her baby-sitting job our young Jill is getting calls from some creepy guy. Instead of taking the one good piece of advice her boozy, slutty friend gives, which is to stop answering, she just keeps right on answering. Some odd time later she decides to call the cops. I say some odd time because I don't really know. By now I wasn't really paying attention, out of boredom.

Finally it looks like the end is in sight. "The call is coming from inside the house!"



That famous line was a beacon of hope in this cheaply-acted, poorly-written rip off. They fight, and stuff happens, and we all go home.

So, what doesn't work with this movie, you ask? Exactly five things. First thing, this actress. I'm sure she will be the next Audrey Hepburn, but for now she needs a little work, although, she doesn't fill out a top too badly.

Secondly, the lack of common sense. If she'd just stop to think things through. The third thing, it does not take a minute to trace a call. It happens within seconds. Stop lying to me Hollywood! Fourth, the killer: we don't see his face until

the last 15 minutes of the movie. This caused me to be distracted I spent too much time just trying to see his face instead of paying attention. And lastly, I am so jealous of this beautiful house!

Would I tell you to go see this movie? The answer is no. Instead spend your 90 minutes checking out your local phone companies. I give it 2 1/2 stars out of 5.◊

RATS From 5

a couple of well bred rats so that you'll be more ready.

One more place where you can get rats is the pet store. Some pet store rats make good pets, but some pet stores are terrible and don't treat rats well. So before buying rats from them, ask an employee if they are feeder rats. If the answer is yes, that means the rats are being sold for snake food and you shouldn't buy from them. Just remember that no matter where you get them, it's best to get at least two, so that they won't get lonely. At pet stores rats usually cost about 5 to 10 dollars. Getting them from breeders is closer to 8 to 20 dollars, but they are also generally more healthy.

So, you've gotten your rats, brought them home and put them in their cage. Now what? You have to get them used to you, so that you can start training them and having fun with them. A good way to get it used to you is to walk around your house with the rat on your shoulder. You could also lay down on your stomach and hand wrestle with it. Just let your rat win sometimes! Another good

best to do with several other people and two or three rats.

Trash Can. Rats love to dig in the garbage can, but it's best to not let them actually dig in the real garbage can, because it's probably full of gross stuff that you don't want way is to give your rat Cheerios so that it will think of you as "the person with the treats." Then you can start having real fun, like making a rat clubhouse out of cardboard boxes and training it to use the litter box.

Now for the fun part. Playing games with your rat! Here are some fun rat games that I made up and got from some other rat people too.

Sand tunnels. We used to do this all the time with Cheezer and Charm, then Nipsy, then Stumpy. All you need is a sandbox or a home made beach. Let the rats explore while you're getting ready. Don't let them run away, though (Charm did that once). So, start digging a tunnel while keeping an eye on the rats. After a while, they will come over and help you dig. Then you'll have a nice sand tunnel for the rats to explore in. This is

your rats to get at. So why not make a special one just for your rats? Just take a washed out garbage can, without a garbage bag. Fill it with cardboard cereal boxes, pop bottles, scraps of cloth, and anything else you think your rats will like. Hide some sunflower seeds, yogurt drops, and dried fruit in there for more enjoyment. Add rats.

Club House. Gather a bunch of cardboard boxes from around the house like shoe boxes, cereal boxes, and stuff like that. Cut little rat doors in them. You can make two-level houses by taping two houses on top of each other, and cutting a hole inside so they can climb from level to level. You can even make a whole box neighborhood in one room of your house. Then add stuff like treats, crumpled up newspaper, and stuff like that. Add rats.

Of course, if you do all this you'll need to have them litter box trained. This is very useful and easy to do. All you have to do is find the corner in their cage that they usually use as a toilet. Then put all the wet shav-

RATS Continued on 8

RATS From 7

ings and poop and stuff into a small, shallow plastic box. Then remove all the other shavings from the whole rest of the cage. If the rats try to go to the bathroom in another part of the cage, say "no" and put them in the litter box. If they go to the bathroom in the litter box, pet them and praise them and give them a treat. Once they are completely trained, you can put a litter box out when your rats are playing out of the cage. Put the rats in it when you take them out, so they know where it is.

So that's the basics on rats as pets. And you can't get plague from pet rats, so don't even ask! Of course, there are some people, like my mom, who just don't like rats but regretfully allow you to get one. In that case, it's a good idea to save up money in case your rat gets sick, because your parents might not want to pay the vet bills of a rodent.◊

Fraquetball Season Recap

The Regular season ends and a look at the future of the AFA

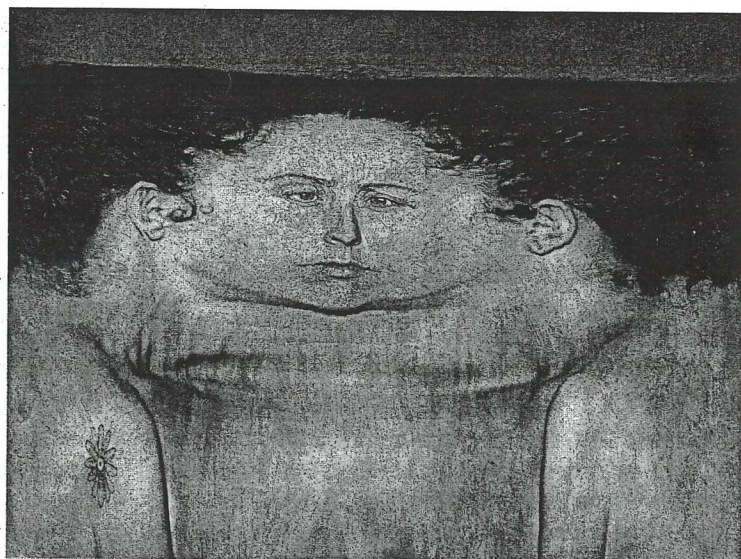
The 2006 Fraquetball season came to a close on March 1st. The Losers (Jaime Avila and Tim Fiero) won the Northern Conference, with Fetal Attraction (Liam Shramko and Andrew Hoaglund) finishing second, and Hat Trick (John Knapp and Griffin Larson) third. Jesson 5 (Doug Anderson and Nathan Jesson) won the East, with Laffy Taffy (Jose Garcia and Maritza Richardson) and Los Geezers finishing second and third, respectively. Jaime won the M.V.P. award, Tom Totushek won the Gold Glove (best defensive player), Doug Anderson won the Silver Slugger (best offensive player),

Kieran Gallagher won Most Improved Player, and Chee Nou Xiong won Rookie of the Year. There are three Seniors on the committee this year; Secretary of the Interior Antonio Rosario, President of the Hall of Fame and Chairmen of the Executive Board of Directors Cameron Beitler, and The Commissioner, Nathan Jesson. Liam Shramko will take over as Commissioner next year. The new committee members will be; Tim Leone-Getten, Griffin Larson, and Jose Garcia, who will fill the vacant spots of the AFA committee.

WATERGATE From 5

17 years I have created an unbound relationship with Snickers. Snickers, packed with roasted peanuts, caramel and milk chocolate, Snickers handles my hunger so I can handle, well... anything. But what will I do without Snickers? This question will loom over me like a storm waiting to strike. My life will forever be tarnished...◊

WALKER



Kiki Smith My Blue Lake 1995

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Hot Art Injection: call for entries

Deadline Friday, April 14, 2006

Do you make art? WACTAC, Walker Art Center Teen Arts Council, is looking for teen artists in any media (painting, performance, poetry, etc.) to submit work for the juried statewide exhibition of art in July at The Soap Factory, a nationally recognized exhibition venue for emerging artists. Call 612.375.7683 or email teenprograms@walkerart.org for more information.

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